Export of clothes

†*155. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to increase the target of export of clothes during the year 2005-06; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The export target for readymade garments for the year 2005-06 has been fixed at US$ 6.45 billion, which is 7.5% higher than last year's target and 17.3% higher than last year's achievement.

Fall in industrial production

*156. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Index for industrial production fell to 4.9 per cent during February, 2005 compared to 8.3 per cent registered in February, 2004;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the negative growth in 2005 and the steps Government propose to take to improve the industrial growth during 2005-06; and

(c) to what extent these steps have been able to improve the industrial growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to Quick Estimates released by the Central statistical Organisation, the growth in the overall industrial production was 4.9% in February, 2005 compared to 8.3% in February, 2004.

(b) The lower growth rate in February, 2005 was due to lower growth of output of mining & quarrying, electricity generation, food products and wool, silk and man-made fibres.

The Government has initiated serveral steps to hasten the pace of industrial growth, including rationalization in duty rates of customs and central excise. Measures to promote manufacturing and the requisite physical infrastructure such as the Industrial Infrastructure Up-gradation Scheme (IIUS) to enhance productivity-competitiveness of the domestic industry by providing quality infrastructure in functional clusters and the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.